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Chron

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7 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Declassification of IRIS Photography of Arizona

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1. On 6 March 1973, [] of the Office of Security received a phone call from Earl Clark, the TCO of the Special Projects Office of the U.S. Geological Survey at Reston, Virginia, concerning the declassification of some IRIS (U-2) photography. Specifically, the Flagstaff office of the USGS has requested the declassification of 40 frames of Arizona that had been flown in 1969. Earl wanted to know whether they could declassify the frames in accordance with the guidance that had been given them on previous declassification actions of U-2 photography.

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2. Upon checking, I found that USGS had not received any written instructions on the previous declassification actions. In one instance, [] had provided oral instructions, and in the second instance, Earl had taken notes from instructions read by [].

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3. Earl's notes contained the following guidelines:

a. No one-to-one reproductions--the declassified film must be enlarged or reduced;

b. Removal of all fiducial and other identifying markings and annotations; and


c. No identification of the unit conducting the flights or of the type, speed, and altitude of the aircraft.

I added that all film should also be checked to ensure that any coverage of military or other sensitive installations is removed.

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4. The above guidelines are still valid and could be used without change in the current USGS proposed action. I told Earl that he would get the final word on this from 

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5. In answer to my question about the records that are kept on such sanitization actions, Earl said that he has a memorandum for the record on each action.

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